GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5217
ANSWERED ON:20.04.2001
SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE BOARD OF TRADE TO ENHANCE EXPORT
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Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Board of Trade has suggested some measures to increase India`s competitiveness in the global market in the wake of lifting of quantitative restrictions;

(b) if so, the details of the measures suggested by the BOT to increase India`s share in world trade;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to improve India`s competitiveness to counter China in the world`s market;

(d) whether the India`s trade and industry would be able to meet the challenges; and

(e) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this direction?

Answer

MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN)

(a) to (e) : The Board of Trade had recommended certain measures to make the Indian economy competitive. These include availability of raw materials at competitive prices, lowering of cost of power and cost of capital, strengthening of Special Economic Zones (SEZ`S), increased efficiency at the ports, computerization ofoffices to reduce transaction cost etc. The current set of export promotion schemes such as Advance Licence, Duty Entitlement Passbook (DEPB) Scheme and Duty Free Replenishmen Certificate (DFRC) ensure that the raw materials for export products are made available at internationally competitive prices. The SEZ scheme provides for duty free imports/ procurement from DTA of goods/machinery for development and setting up of factories in the SEZ`s including development of SEZ. DGFT and Custom Houses are being computerized to bring down the transaction costsThese steps are aimed at improving the competitiveness of Indian products in the international market.